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(b) if so, why such a distinction is made in the public school ;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the girls belonging to the depressed classes were denied admission by the headmistress when they sought for admission several times recently in the Pallikonda girls' school, North Arcot district ;

(d) what action has been taken on the representation made by me on the 28th May 1925, regarding the above matter to the Secretary, Law (Education) Department, as well as to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras ; and

(e) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a) to (d) whether they will be pleased to call for the information ?

A.—The Government have no information but have called for a report.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ Sir, the answer says that the Government have no information but have called for a report. May I know if the report said to have been called for has already been received, and, if so, may I know whether the hon. Minister in charge will be pleased to lay it on the table.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ The report has not yet been received.”

Agriculture.

Improvement of jute and groundnut.

* 350 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the Agricultural Department for the improvement of jute and groundnut varieties ?

A.—Jute proper is not grown in this Presidency. The area of so-called Bimilipatam jute or Deccan hemp is not large enough to justify the transfer of the present agricultural staff from the investigation of more important crops. Varieties of groundnut have been tested near Palur without conclusive results up to date. An area of land at Pelankuppam in Tindivanam taluk has recently been leased to conduct further experiments.

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ The hon. Minister says in this answer that jute proper is not grown in this Presidency. May I know if jute improper is grown in this Presidency ? Further, one variety of jute is grown in large quantities in the district of Vizagapatam. Is the Government not aware of the fact that this is one of the most important industrial products of the district ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ Bimilipatam jute is being cultivated, but the area under such cultivation is not of such importance as to induce the Agricultural Department to make special experiments for the cultivation of that crop.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ Does not Bimilipatam supply the jute necessary for the jute factories at Nellimarla and Chittivalasa in the Vizagapatam district and also to the factory at Guntur, and is not Bimilipatam jute exported in large quantities to Calcutta and foreign countries ? ”

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"My own information is that the area under such (jute) cultivation is very small. But if the hon. Member would give me facts and figures, I shall go into them."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—"Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state approximately the area under jute cultivation at present?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"It is so small that I did not care to get the information."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"I would request my hon. Friend the Minister to investigate the subject. We are not able to give the exact figures, and they are not readily available to us."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI:—"Is it not a fact that there is a very great decline in the produce of jute since 20 years ago, when it was extensively cultivated? I believe that since there has been a decline. Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state the main causes for this decline?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"First I must verify the facts, and then I shall make enquiries."

Manufacture of malted food from cholam.

* 351 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether, in view of the subsequent improvement in the financial position of the Presidency, the Government propose to undertake the manufacture of the malted food from cholam on a commercial basis; and

(b) whether they have published the Agricultural Chemist's report of his experiments on the malting of large quantities of cholam for general information?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Yes; copies can be had from the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras.

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to clause (a), I wanted to know whether the Government propose to undertake the manufacture of malted food from cholam on a commercial basis, but the Government say 'No'. I wish to know whether it is because the Government think that there has been no improvement in the financial position or whether they consider that it is impossible to manufacture it on a commercial basis, or for what other reason?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"It has been manufactured as a process in the chemical art, and it has also been demonstrated that it could be manufactured on a commercial basis. But the real question is whether any large section of the Indian population will take to the use of malted foods. If the Government are assured on that point, they will take the necessary steps. Already my hon. Friends know that in a similar venture, the information that we already have is not sufficient to show that the people as a class are willing to take to these fruit jams and fruit preserves. Therefore